

Claims

I claim:

1. A method for honoring or memorializing a person, place, thing or event, wherein the method comprises:

- a) choosing a desired shape or pattern;
- b) using a star chart to identify a constellation of at least two stars that define, or otherwise correspond to, the chosen shape or pattern; and
- c) documenting, in written form:
 - i) the person, thing, or event that is honored or memorialized;
 - ii) the shape or pattern chosen; and
 - iii) the stars that correspond to the shape or pattern.

2. The method, according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the stars identified in step b) is visible to the naked eye.

3. The method, according to claim 1, wherein at least 3 stars are used to define the shape or pattern.

4. The method, according to claim 1, wherein at least 5 stars are used to define the shape or pattern.

5. The method, according to claim 1, wherein at least 8 stars are used to define the shape or pattern.

6. The method, according to claim 1, wherein the chosen shape or pattern is reproduced on a transparent or semi-transparent medium and placed over a star map in order to identify stars that define, or correspond to, the chosen shape or pattern.

7. The method, according to claim 6, wherein a depiction of the chosen shape or pattern is created by forming lines between the stars that have been chosen to define or correspond to the chosen shape or pattern.

8. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said method further comprises giving the constellation of stars identified in step b) a constellation name.

9. The method, according to claim 8, wherein information regarding the constellation is made publicly available.

10. The method, according to claim 9, wherein the information made publicly available includes:

- a) the name of the constellation;
 - b) an identification of the shape or pattern;
 - c) an identification of the stars that correspond to, or define, the shape or pattern;
- and
- d) the person, thing, or event that is being honored or memorialized.

11. The method, according to claim 10, wherein the information is deposited at the Library of Congress.

12. The method, according to claim 1, which further comprises providing, to an individual that chooses the person, thing, or event to be memorialized, written documentation of:

- a) the name of the constellation;
 - b) an identification of the shape or pattern;
 - c) an identification of the stars that correspond to, or define, the shape or pattern;
- and
- d) the person, thing, or event that is being honored or memorialized.

13. The method, according to claim 1, which further comprises at least one of the following steps:

- a) specifying at least one specific star that is to be included in the new constellation;
- b) requiring the constellation, or a portion thereof, to be visible at particular geographic location, date, or time; and
- c) utilizing a software program to help implement the method.

14. A constellation registry used to identify or document constellations and the stars that make up constellations, wherein said registry comprises the following information about constellations:

- a) the name of the constellation; and
- b) an identifier of each star in the constellation.

15. The registry, according to claim 14, which further comprises information about one or more of the following:

- a) owner identification;
- b) owner contact information;
- c) creation date;
- d) dedication or tribute data;
- e) anchor star identification; and
- f) registration ID or registration identification.

16. The registry, according to claim 14, wherein said registry is publicly accessible.